

7 FAM 040

CONSULAR REGISTRATION OF U.S. CITIZENS AND U.S. NON-CITIZEN NATIONALS

(CT:CON-106; 06-06-2005)
(Office of Origin: CA/OCS/PRI)

7 FAM 041 SUMMARY

(CT:CON-106; 06-06-2005)

U.S. citizens may register with U.S. embassies and consulates abroad. The primary purpose for soliciting the information is to enable U.S. citizens who wish to participate to register their whereabouts abroad, so that they may be contacted in the event of an evacuation or other emergency, in furtherance of the Secretary's responsibility for the protection of U.S. nationals abroad. Release of information obtained in this collection is subject to the provisions of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). See 7 FAM 060 regarding the Privacy Act and American Citizens Services work.

7 FAM 042 AUTHORITY

(CT:CON-106; 06-06-2005)

The authority for the Department of State to register citizens is derived from:

- a. 22 U.S.C. 2715 Procedures Regarding Major Disasters And Incidents Abroad Affecting United States Citizens, which provides ...

22 U.S.C. 2715

(a) Authority: In the case of a major disaster or incident abroad which affects the health and safety of citizens of the United States residing or traveling abroad, **the Secretary of State shall provide prompt and thorough notification** of all appropriate information concerning such disaster or incident and its effect on United States citizens to the next-of-kin of such individuals.

- b. 22 U.S.C. 4802 Responsibility of Secretary of State, Subsection (b) Overseas Evacuations, which provides

22 U.S.C. 4802

“(b) Overseas Evacuations

“The Secretary of State shall develop and implement policies and programs to provide for the safe and efficient evacuation of United States Government personnel, dependents, and private United States citizens when their lives are endangered. Such policies shall include measures to identify high risk areas where evacuation may be necessary and, where appropriate, providing staff to United States Government missions abroad to assist in those evacuations. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Secretary shall—

“(2) **develop a mechanism whereby United States citizens can voluntarily request to be placed on a list in order to be contacted in the event of an evacuation, or which, in the event of an evacuation, can maintain information on the location of United States citizens in high risk areas submitted by their relatives;** and

“(4) **develop a plan for coordinating communications** between embassy staff, Department of State personnel, and families of United States citizens abroad **regarding the whereabouts of those citizens.”**

c. 22 CFR 50.3 which provides ...

22 CFR 50.3

“(a) A person abroad who claims U.S. nationality, or a representative on his behalf, may apply at a consular post for registration ... to make his residence in the particular consular area a matter of record.”

d. OMB Authorization: OMB NO: 1405-0152. See OMB Inventory Department of State Information Collections.

7 FAM 043 REGISTRATION NOT A FORM OF CITIZENSHIP DETERMINATION

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- a. Registration is not a form of citizenship determination. Whether the individual registers using the Internet Based Registration System (IBRS) (See 7 FAM 044) or registers by fax, phone or email, or in person (See 7 FAM 045), the purpose of that registration is to assist in emergency evacuation planning and to enable U.S. embassies and consulates and the Department of State to contact registrants abroad in the event of an emergency.
- b. The Form DS-11 and Form DS-82 passport applications are no longer

used for registration of U.S. citizenship. Persons wishing to establish his or her claim to U.S. citizenship or U.S. non-citizen national status should apply for a U.S. passport at any passport issuing office, for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States (Application Form DS-2029) at any U.S. embassy or consulate abroad, or for a certificate of citizenship from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services. 22 CFR 50.3 Application for Registration and 22 CFR 50.9 Card of Identity are being amended.

- c. 7 FAM 1410, 7 FAM 1420 and 7 FAM 1430 are being amended to eliminate reference to registration as a form of citizenship determination.

7 FAM 044 INTERNET BASED REGISTRATION SYSTEM (IBRS)

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- a. Consular Affairs' Internet-Based Registration Service (IBRS) is now available to the public, replacing all post-maintained American citizen registration websites.
- b. **What is IBRS?** IBRS is a central Internet site located at on the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet page Registration page where U.S. citizens residing or traveling abroad can register themselves on-line using an OMB-approved electronic form (DS-4024) that includes an optional Privacy Act waiver. The system includes the creation of country-specific and post-specific email lists that registrants can join to receive, via email, updates to Consular Information Sheets, Public Announcements, and Travel Warnings specific to the countries they choose. See 7 FAM 050. Registration records of travelers will be available to the relevant overseas posts for manual inclusion in their local warden programs. See 7 FAM 070 for guidance about Warden Systems.
- c. The IBRS site will allow both short- and long-term travelers abroad to provide their itinerary, residence, and emergency contact information. Organizations such as travel agencies or firms with employees overseas may also enter information on their clients or staff. This data will help consular officers to locate Americans in their country in order to relay emergency messages from relatives in the U.S., or during a crisis situation. Posts will be able to print out reports in the Consolidated Data Base (CCD) such as IBRS statistics, IBRS registrant contact lists and IBRS email lists from which they can send mass emails.
- d. **What else does IBRS have to offer?** When a new improved American citizen services application now known as ACSIP is deployed worldwide in 2005-2006, the two secure systems will actively share information. At

that point, consular staff will no longer need to maintain post-developed warden automated systems. The interchange of information between IBRS and ACSIP will allow consular staff to respond more effectively and rapidly to requests for assistance, to efficiently provide information to populations of American travelers and residents abroad, and to customize data and reports to posts' and CA's specific needs.

- e. **How secure is American citizen data on IBRS?** While the IBRS Internet site uses secure encryption to safeguard privacy and therefore any unauthorized interception by third parties via the Internet is unlikely, the Department of State is not responsible for any such interception. This is stated in the IBRS site itself. We have taken great care to ensure that the IBRS system is secure and that private citizens' data stored in our consular database cannot be accessed by unauthorized users. To provide both security and privacy, all data transmissions on the Internet with public users are encrypted using secure Internet protocols. The components of IBRS that are used by U.S. citizens via the Internet are completely separated from the components of IBRS used by State Department personnel via the State Department Intranet. A series of firewalls are utilized to ensure that no access can originate from the Internet to any of the Intranet components. Personal information provided by the public is stored behind the firewalls on internal State Department-controlled servers.
- f. **IBRS Registration is Not Proof of Citizenship:** Registration through the Internet is not proof or evidence of U.S. citizenship.

7 FAM 045 REGISTRATION BY EMAIL, PHONE, FAX OR IN PERSON

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The Department (CA/OCS) appreciates that not everyone has access to the Internet, and that there are individuals who will contact U.S. embassies and consulates abroad to register by email, phone, fax, or in person so that they may be contacted in the event of an emergency. Accordingly, we are developing a paper version of Form DS-4024, IBRS, which posts can use to assist these individuals. The data must then be keyed into the IBRS system by post. Posts with PC's in their lobbies may allow citizens to self-register on IBRS directly.

7 FAM 046 THROUGH 049 UNASSIGNED